

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated May 27, 2003, the Examiner objects to claim 1 because of informalities. Claims 1, 3, 12, 14-16, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,398 (Kojima et al.). Claims 2, 5 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,326 (Card et al.). Claims 4 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,540 (Gallup et al.).

By this Amendment, the specification has been amended to correct informalities. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Claims 2-4 and 12-22 have been canceled. New claims 23-33 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1 to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 12, 14-16, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kojima et al. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 12, 14-16, 21 and 22. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection regarding remaining pending claim 1.

Kojima et al. discloses a media selecting device enabling a user to easily select any desired one of a plurality of selectable media. The media selecting device

can easily select any one of a plurality hierarchically-related icons by turning a rotary disc type knob. The user presses a first change-over button to access the icon selected by the disk-type knob and to display icons of a lower hierarchical layer or to display a deciding medium represented by icons. The user can press a second change-over button to cancel the selected icon, and to display icons of an upper hierarchical layer. The displayed icons have different three-dimensional shape and location information, and are disposed in a three-dimensional virtual space, thus increasing visibility and control of the device.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants submit that Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of this claim of, inter alia, providing a plurality of contents display zones and a menu board used to select any contents in a virtual three-dimensional space to display a part thereof on a screen, changing the contents information items to have sizes on the screen determined according to a utilization degree of a user, changing the contents information items to be displayed with sizes thereof sequentially minimized toward a deeper place in a direction of depth on the screen, or a menu board being displayed together with part of the plurality of contents display zones when the user operates to display the menu board with a menu key. Kojima et al. merely discloses a media selecting device enabling a user to select any one of a plurality of selectable media using a rotary disc-type knob. Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest anything related to providing a plurality of contents display zones and a menu board used to select any contents, as recited in the claims of the present application. Further, Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest anything related to changing the contents information items to

have sizes on a screen determined in accordance with the utilization degree of a user or to be displayed with sizes sequentially minimized toward a deeper place in a direction of depth on the screen. Kojima et al. merely relates to the selection of hierarchically-related icons. Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest anything related to changing the sizes of contents information items, as recited in the claims of the present application. Further, Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest a menu board being displayed together with part of a plurality of contents display zones when the user operates to display the menu board with the menu key. Kojima et al. merely discloses access images changed from display screens (see, e.g., Figs. 5B and 6B and Figs. 5A and 6A).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kojima et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of claim 1 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 2, 5 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al. in view of Card et al. Applicants have canceled claims 2 and 13 therefore rendering these rejections moot. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as to remaining pending claim 5.

As discussed in Applicants' previously filed Amendment, Card et al. relates to a system for moving document objects in a 3D workspace. Applicants submit that claim 5 is dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, is patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim. Applicants submit that Card et al. does not overcome the substantial defects noted previously

regarding Kojima et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither Kojima et al. nor Card et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 5 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claims 4 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et al. in view of Gallup et al. Claims 4 and 17-20 have been canceled therefore rendering these rejections moot.

New Claims

Applicants have submitted new claims 23-33 for consideration by the Examiner and submit that these claims do not contain any prohibited new matter and are patentable over the cited references.

Regarding claims 23 and 24, Applicants submit that these claims are dependent on independent claim 1 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim.

Regarding claims 25 and 30, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, providing a plurality of contents display zones and a menu board used to select any contents in a virtual three-dimensional space to display a part thereof on a screen, changing the contents information items to have sizes on the screen determined according to a utilization degree of a user, changing the contents information items to be displayed with sizes thereof sequentially minimized toward a deeper place in a

direction of depth on the screen, or a menu board being displayed together with part of the plurality of contents display zones when the user operates to display the menu board with a menu key. As noted previously, none of the cited references disclose or suggest these limitations in the claims of the present application.

Regarding claims 26-29 and 31-33, these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 25 and 30 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references taken alone or in any proper combination disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of new claims 23-33 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be entered and allowed.

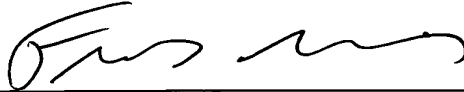
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 5 and 23-33 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 09/463,010

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38106X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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